

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 and ending at page 1, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This invention relates to a novel adsorbent to be used in agents for the removal of harmful substances by adsorption. More particularly, the invention relates to an adsorbent which is formed by coating an adsorption basis with a gel-formable-like substance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 2, and ending at page 3, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The object mentioned above is accomplished by this invention providing an adsorbent which is formed by coating an adsorption basis with a gel-formable-like substance and subsequently subjecting the coated basis to a freezing treatment.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 6, and ending at page 3, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The object is further accomplished by this invention providing an adsorbent which is formed by coating an adsorption basis with a gel-formable-like substance already containing a frost damage preventing substance and subsequently depriving the coated basis partly or wholly of the frost damage preventing substance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21, and ending at page 3, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This invention further concerns the adsorbent, wherein the gel-formable-like substance mentioned above is the divalent metallic salt of a macromolecular polycarboxylic acid.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 2, and ending at page 4, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This invention further concerns the adsorbent, wherein the gel-formable-like substance mentioned above is soybean curd, jelly, konjak, agar, perilla, gelidium jelly, or chitosanoxalic acid salt gel.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 7, and ending at page 4, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This invention further concerns the adsorbent which comprises an adsorbent moiety formed by coating an adsorption basis with a first ~~gel-formable-like~~ like substance and a second gel-like substance moiety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 12 and ending at page 6, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is considered that when the adsorbent of this invention is formed by coating an adsorption basis with a ~~gel-formable-like~~ like substance and then subjecting the coated basis to a freezing treatment, this adsorbent is enabled to keep intact the ability to effect adsorption possessed inherently by the adsorption basis because the moisture in the ~~gel-formable-like~~ like substance forming the coat is coagulated and is consequently allowed to form in the coat such minute pores as have a larger diameter than the pores which would be formed solely by cross-linkage.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 22 and ending at page 7, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is considered that when the adsorbent is formed by coating the adsorption basis with the ~~gel-formable-like~~ like substance already containing a frost preventing substance and then depriving the coated basis of the frost preventing substance, this adsorbent is enabled to manifest the same effect as mentioned above because the procedure so employed produces similar minute pores in the ~~gel-formable-like~~ like substance forming the coat.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 4 and ending at page 7, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the adsorbent of this invention uses minute particles of powdered active carbon, for example, as the adsorption basis, it assumes the constitution of a dispersion system having the adsorption basis uniformly dispersed in the ~~gel-formable-like~~ like substance. The adsorbent, therefore, permits highly efficient removal by adsorption of a harmful substance because the adsorbent in its entirety enjoys an increase in the surface area available for adsorption and a consequent increase in the ability to effect adsorption as compared with the adsorbent produced by solely using active carbon in a highly dispersed state.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 15 and ending at page 7, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Since the adsorbent of this invention has the adsorption basis coated with the ~~gel-formable-like~~ substance, it can be directly ingested into the digestive system and utilized therein for effecting ready removal by adsorption of a harmful substance which has mingled in a foodstuff and consequently succumbed to assimilation therein. The adsorbent, on being directly ingested into the digestive system, does not induce such adverse effects as constipation. The adsorbent which has effected the removal by adsorption of the harmful substance in the digestive system can be very quickly and easily discharged from the digestive system.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 2 and ending at page 9, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The adsorbent of this invention can be obtained by coating an adsorption basis with a ~~gel-formable-like~~ substance and subsequently subjecting the coated basis to a freezing treatment.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 14 and ending at page 10, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the active carbon is used as the adsorbent, it can be used in various forms such as, for example, powder, granules, and fibers. It is nevertheless particularly favorable to use the active carbon in the powdery or granular form. In this case, the active carbon is preferred to have a particle diameter in the range of 5 μ - 10 mm. If the particle diameter of the active carbon is less than 5 μ m, the active carbon will not be handled easily. If the particle diameter exceeds 10 mm, the ability of the active carbon to effect the adsorption per unit weight will be unduly low. The amount of the active carbon to be incorporated in the ~~gel-formable-like~~ substance is preferred to be in the range of 0.02 - 90 wt. %. If this amount of the active carbon is less than 0.02 wt. %, the active carbon will not be sufficiently effective in attaining necessary adsorption. If the amount exceeds 90 wt. %, the active carbon will be dispersed in the ~~gel-formable-like~~ substance only with difficulty.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 5 and ending at page 10, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As the ~~gel-formable-like~~ substance to be used in the adsorbent of this invention, the ~~gel-formable-like~~ substance such as, for example, the divalent metal salt of a macromolecular polycarboxylic acid which, when injected into the digestive system, does no harm may be cited. As concrete examples of the divalent metal salt of a macromolecular polycarboxylic acid,

calcium, magnesium, iron, and copper salts of such macromolecular compounds as alginic acid, pectic acid, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl chitin, styrene-maleic acid copper, styrene-maleic acid semialkyl ester copolymer, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymer, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, acrylic acid-methacrylic acid copolymer, acrylic acid-maleic acid copolymer, and acrylic acid-maleic acid semialkyl ester copolymer which possess a carboxyl group in the side chain may be cited.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 20 and ending at page 12, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ~~gel-formable~~-like substances which can be used in this invention include such ~~gel-formable~~-like foodstuffs as soybean curd, jelly, konjak, agar, perilla, and gelidium jelly and chitosanoxalic acid salt gel, for example. The adsorbent which uses such a ~~gel-formable~~-like substance is obtained by suitably adding and dispersing the adsorption basis such as, for example, active carbon powder prior to the formation of gel during the course of production of the relevant ~~gel-formable~~-like foodstuff.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 3 and ending at page 14, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The adsorbent of this invention allows the ~~gel-formable~~-like substances mentioned above to be used either singly or in the form of a mixture of two or more members. This adsorbent, as occasion demands, allows addition thereto of such viscosity enhancers as almond gum, AEROMONASU gum, ASOTOBAKUTAA, BINERANJII gum, AMASHIDO gum, gum arabic, arabinogalactan, alginic acid, AROEBERA extract, UERAN gum, ERUWINIA, MITSUENSHISU gum, EREMI resin, ENTEROBAKUTAA MITSUENSHISU gum, ENTEROBAKUTAA gum, ORAKU extract, KAADORAN, seaweed cellulose, KASHIA gum, brown seaweed extract, KARAGINAN, karaya gum, KAROBUBIIN gum, GACHII gum, xanthan gum, KITACHIAROE extract, chitin, chitosan, guayule gum, glucosamine, yeast cell membrane, SAIRYUMUSHIIDO gum, JURAN gum, SUKURERO gum, YASURERO gum, SESUBANIA gum, TAMARINDOSHIIDO gum, TARA gum, DANMARU resin, PUKISUTOSSO, tragacanth gum, TORIAKANSOSU gum, TOROROAOI, Bacillus natto gum, fibrillous cellulose, NOASERERAN, ZORURAN, pectin, MAKUROHOMOBUSHISU gum, RAMUZAN gum, and levan, such gum bases as ERENU resin, OURINKYURIROU,

OZOKERAITO, NABOBANAKKUSU resin, KAURI gum, carnauba wax, KANDERIWO wax, whale wax, crown gum, gutta KACHU, gutta HANKAN, gutta BERUKA, guaiac resin, guayule, KOOPARU resin, KOPAIPAPARUSAMU, rice bran wax, rum, decomposed rubber resin, sugar cane wax, SANDARAKKU resin, Shellac (refined shellac and white shellac), shellac_wax, JURUTON, SORUBA, SORUBINBA, talc, DAMMARU resin, CHIKUBURU, chicle, TSUMEE, low molecular rubber, NYUKOU, nigger gutta, NITSUBERO, balata, paraffin socks, fur balsam, powdered pulp, powdered rice hull, Venezuela chicle, benzoin gum, BERIJO, HOHOBA wax, MASSARANDOBA chocolate, MASSARANDO BABARATA, microcrystalline socks, mastic, honey wax, myrrh, sumac wax, montan wax, oilcake seed wax, lanolin, RETCHUBUBAKA, ROJIKINHA, and rosin, such brighteners as OURIKYURI wax, carnauba wax, KANDERIRA wax, whale wax, coriander seed, saffron, prickly ash, perilla, SYAROTTO, JUNIBAA berry, ginger, cinnamon, star anise oil, spearmint, sage, SEBORII, celery seed, thyme, water pepper, onion, tarragon, chicory, CHAIBU, CHAABIRU, extracted powder spice, Chile pepper, dill, nutmeg, leek, garlic, scallion, parsley, peppermint, paprika, pistachio, FENUGU leek, FENNERU seed, horse raddish, MAAJORAN, umbrelliferous plant, Japanese ginger, mace, MESU, citron, lime, red pepper, lemon, rosemary, laurel, and horse raddish, such dairy products as cheese, fresh cream, butter, powdered milk, whey, and condensed milk, such liquors curano, Kirschwasser, sherry, refined sake, beer, wine, brandy, powdered sake, vermouth, rum, and liqueur, and alpha starch, alpha rice, sweetened bean paste, UURON tea, EROUTEROKOKKU extract, dried vegetable, agar, gluten, chlorella, powdered blood, powdered blood plasma, koji mold, black tea, coffee, yeast, ginseng, cocoa, powdered rice, corn flour, wheat malt, collagen, powdered konjak, acetobacter, sake lees, jam table salt, protein from refined fish meat, protein from refined flour, protein from refined soybean, gelatin, buckwheat flour, seed malt, chocolate, dextrin, starch, corn flour, Bacillus subtilis, sparingly disestible dextrin, lactobacillus, lactose, malt, malt extract, ham, bifidobacterium bifidum, bran, partially alpha starch, powdered potato, powdered yam, monascus, hemicellulose, ground tea, citrous pulp, powdered egg yolk, egg yolk oil, albumen, and green tea.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 9 and ending at page 14, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The adsorbent of this invention can be otherwise obtained by coating an adsorption basis

with a ~~gel-formable-like~~ substance already containing a frost harm preventing substance and subsequently depriving the coated basis partly or wholly of the frost harm preventing substance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 15 and ending at page 24, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As concrete examples of the processed food which permits incorporation of the adsorbent, such dairy products as yogurt and cheese, such pastes of fish meat as kamaboko, chikuwa, hampen, satsumaage, naruto, and tsumire, such processed meats of fish, and shellfish as dembu, such processed meats as sausages, frankfurters, and lever pastes, such leguminous products soybean curd, burnt soybean curd, fried soybean curd, deep-fried soybean curd, fried soybean curd cake with stuffed ingredients, frozen soybean curd, yuba, such processed vegetables as puree, processed potatoes such as mashed potato, arrowroot starch, rice flour dumplings, boiled rice, rice vermicelli, macaroni, spaghetti, fine noodles, buckwheat noodles, noodles, Chinese noodles, bread, biscuits, and sweetened bread cakes, such sweeteners as jam, such oils and fats as butter, margarine, mayonnaise, and dressing, such confectioneries as candy, rakugan, rice biscuits, sponge cake, adzuki-bean paste, bean-jam wafers, buns filled with bean jam, soft round rice cake stuffed with sweet bean jam, dumplings, uiro, chocolate, biscuits, cookies, doughnuts, cakes, pies, ice cream, pudding, and Bavarian cream, such ~~gel-formable-like~~ foodstuffs as soybean curd, jelly, konjak, agar, perilla, and gelidium jelly, and such seaweeds as kelp, wakame, laver, and agar weed may be cited.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 2 and ending at page 33, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Adsorbent: ~~Gel-formable-like~~ substance: Freezing treatment (Yes/No):

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 56, line 5 and ending at page 56, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The adsorbent of this invention is obtained by coating an adsorption basis with a gel-like substance and then subjecting the coated absorption basis to a freezing treatment and is formed of a dispersed system having the adsorption basis uniformly dispersed in the ~~gel-formable-like~~ substance and, therefore, is capable of effecting removal by adsorption of a harmful substance with unusually high efficiency without sacrificing the adsorbing ability which is inherent in the adsorption basis.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 56, line 14 and ending at page 56, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The adsorbent of this invention can manifest the same effect as mentioned above because it is obtained by coating an adsorption basis with a ~~gel-formable~~-like substance already containing a frost harm preventing substance and subsequently depriving the coated adsorption basis of the frost harm preventing substance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 56, line 20 and ending at page 57, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the adsorbent of this invention, when adopting minute particles of powdered active carbon, for example, as the adsorption basis, is allowed to form a dispersed system having the adsorption basis uniformly dispersed in a ~~gel-formable~~-like substance. It is therefore, capable of effecting removal by adsorption of a harmful substance with unusually high efficiency because the adsorbent as a whole enjoys an increased area available for adsorption and a consequent increase in the ability to effect adsorption as compared with the active carbon which is used all by itself owing to the addition to the efficiency of dispersion of active carbon.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 57, line 5 and ending at page 57, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Since the adsorbent of this invention has an adsorption basis coated with a ~~gel-formable~~-like substance, it can be directly ingested into the digestive system and can easily effect removal by adsorption of the harmful substance introduced as mixed with a food stuff into the digestive system. Moreover, this adsorbent avoids inducing such a trouble as constipation even when it is directly ingested into the digestive system. The adsorbent which has effected the removal by adsorption of the harmful substance in the digestive system can be very quickly and easily discharged from the digestive system.